(b) the present liabilities of the three tea gardens, garden-wise and head of account-wise;

(c) whether Government are going to pay arrears, P.F. and gratuity to workers; and

(d) if so, the time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) has prayed before the Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the Company as a whole including its 5 Tea Gardens namely, Putung, Vah-Tukvar, Peshok, Pathini and Looksan.

(b) The liabilities of these three gardens which includes wages & others, CPF etc. are as under:—

1. Putong	Rs. 115.42 lacs (Upto December, 2001)
2. Vah-Tukvar	Rs. 690.63 lacs (Upto September, 2001)
3. Peshok	Rs. 358.00 lacs (Estimated)

(c) and (d) TTCI a wholly owned subsidiary of STC is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. TTCI management has filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. The aspect in regard to payment of dues of PF, gratuity etc. can be taken into consideration based on the judgement of Calcutta High Court in the liquidation case. It is, however, not feasible to assess the time frame for the judgement of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court.

Slow industrial growth rate

504. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial growth in the country during the past few months have reached an alarming point in comparison to the previous year's growth rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any policy to boost its industrial growth rate in the next few months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the latest data, available, the industrial growth during April-December 2001-02 has been 2.3% as against 5.8% registered during the corresponding period of last year. The deceleration in industrial growth has been attributable to a number of structural and cyclical factors such as:

- Investment and business cycles.
- Inherent adjustment lags of corporate restructuring.
- Lack of both consumer and investment demand.
- Continued high real interest rates.
- Infrastructure constraints particularly in power.
- Delays in establishing credible institutional and regulatory framework to provide the requisite comfort level for private participation in some key sectors have also dampened private investment and industrial production.
- Lack of reforms in land and labour markets.
- Continued economic slowdown in countries that are major trading partners of India, viz. USA, Japan and European Union.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several policy initiatives to boost industrial production in the country. These measures have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and to boost aggregate demand, improve infrastructure base, upgrade technology, introduce labour flexibility and encourage FDI flows. Some of the initiatives taken recently/ proposed to be taken are briefly mentioned below:

- Public spending out of the budgetary allocations has been stepped up. Government has already identified several "last mile projects" under various ministries for speedy completion.

- DIPP has proposed to conduct sector-wise studies in respect of capital goods, electrical manufacturing, pulp and paper and cement industries with a view to enhance the competitiveness of these industries.
- Companies Act has been amended to allow buy-back of shares, by the companies.
- To deepen reforms in stock exchanges and to provide protection to the investors, Union Budget 2002-03 proposes amendments in SEBI Act, 1992.
- The Government has announced guidelines for allowing 100% FDI in the development of integrated townships and regional urban infrastructure. This is expected to boost housing/real estate sector and also boost production in cement and steel sector.
- To boost Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) in India, FII portfolio investment will not be subject to the Sectoral limits for foreign direct investment except in specified sectors
- Mid term Export strategy for 2002–07 to lay stress on effective tax rebate schemes to help exporters. These include transparent and comprehensive schemes of reimbursement, comprehensive VAT system at every level, rebating service tax besides lower customs and excise duties for major inputs needed for exports, which can minimise the need for duty drawback.
- Sector-wise strategies to boost production for exports in key sectors, which include engineering / electronic / electrical and allied, textiles, gems and jewellery, chemicals and allied sector have also been announced.
- To reduce infrastructure bottlenecks several incentives have been announced in the Union Budget 2002-03 for improvement in power, roads, civil aviation and ports.
- The Golden Quadrilateral project will be susbstantially completed by December 2003—a year ahead of schedule, major ports to be corporatised in a phased manner and an allocation of Rs. 2500 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana for 2002-03.
- Infrastructure equity fund of Rs. 1000 crore will be set up to help in providing equity investment for infrastructure projects. Total Plan outlay on infrastructure in power, roads and railway is Rs. 37919 crores.

- Union Budget 2002-03 proposes abolition of 16% special excise duty on all, except eight items.
- Additional 15% depreciation on new plant and machinery.
- Reduction of peak rate of custom duty to 30% rationalisation of custom duty rates to two duty rates by 2004-05.
- Budget 2002-03 announced special incentives for textile industry.
- Measures to boost Housing sector such as repeal by the States of the rules under the Urban Land Ceiling Act, rationalisation of high stamp duty regimes proposed in the Union Budget 2002-03.

Anti-dumping Cases against Chinese Companies

505. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have registered any anti-dumping case against some Chinese Companies recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has since been taken against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has initiated 14 Anti Dumping cases concerning imports from China during the year 2001 mainly involving pharmaceutical and chemical products and consumer items like Lead Acid Batteries, Compact Flourescent Lamps and Vitrified Porcelain Tiles. Action has been taken by the Government concerning these cases in the following manner:—

(i) Definitive duties have been recommended in 4 cases, of which duties have been imposed in 2 cases.

(ii) Provisional duties have been recommended in 9 cases, of which duties have been imposed in 6 cases.

(iii) The remaining 1 case has been terminated due to withdrawal of petition by the domestic industry.